

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 3, 11, 12, 16, 22, 23, 25, and 31; and cancel claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 15-31 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action,¹ the Examiner objected to the drawings; rejected claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 22, 23, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; rejected claims 1-12 and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter; and rejected claims 1-12 and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,566,319 to Lenz ("Lenz").

A. Objection to the Drawings

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to Fig. 1 for purportedly containing improper shading. However, to advance prosecution, Applicants submit herewith one (1) Replacement Sheet containing Fig. 1 without any shading. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the drawings.

B. Rejection of Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 22, 23, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Regarding claims 1, 11, 12, and 23, the Examiner states that "the claims are indefinite because not every branch of the 'if' statements have been disclosed." Office Action, p. 3. Although Applicants traverse the rejection, to advance prosecution,

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 12, and 23 to include branches of the claimed “if” statements.

Regarding claim 10, Applicants have canceled claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Regarding claims 22 and 31, Applicants have amended claims 22 and 31 to depend from claims 21 and 30, respectively, such that the recitation “the data array” has sufficient antecedent basis.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 22, 23, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

C. Rejection of Claims 1-12 and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-12 and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. However, to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 11, 12, and 23. Support for the amendments can be found at, for example, page 4, lines 5-10; page 9, lines 5-8; page 11, lines 32-34; page 15, line 28 to page 17, line 22; and Fig. 1.

Applicants submit that determining whether a read and/or write access on a data object is to be restricted or performed and then displaying that determination to a user on an output display produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Therefore, claims 1, 11, 12, and 23 are statutory. Furthermore, the Examiner incorrectly argues that “according to the instant specification . . . , the computer readable medium includes carrier wave.” Office Action, p. 5. The specification states: “a computer readable

medium and a carrier signal.” Spec., p. 4, line 26 (emphasis added).² The specification does not state that a computer readable medium includes a carrier signal. Also, claim 17 of PCT/EP2003/009827, which recited a “carrier wave” without any recitation of a computer readable medium, was canceled by Amended Sheets of claims originally filed with this application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-12 and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

D. Rejection of Claims 1-12 and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-12 and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Lenz*. In order to properly establish that *Lenz* anticipates Applicants’ claimed invention under Section 102, each and every element of each of the claims in issue must be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in that single reference. Furthermore, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.” See M.P.E.P. § 2131, quoting *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1126, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicants submit that *Lenz* does not disclose each and every element of Applicants’ claimed invention.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a method for accessing, in a computer system, a data object having an identifier (ID) including, for example, “if the link is not

² In making reference to the specification, Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to the exemplary embodiments described in the specification. Rather, Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

assigned to the ID, deleting the ID from the first lock object.” *Lenz* does not disclose at least this feature of claim 1.

The Examiner alleges that the claimed “a link to a storage location is assigned to the ID” is disclosed by *Lenz* in col. 2, lines 9-10. See Office Action, p. 6. However, *Lenz* discloses that “each . . . control field[] is associated with a . . . data address.” *Lenz*, col. 2, lines 9-10 (emphasis added). *Lenz* is silent with respect to determining whether a control field is or is not associated with a data address. Therefore, *Lenz* fails to disclose determining “if the link is not assigned to the ID,” as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Furthermore, the Examiner alleges that updating the status identification code SKC in *Lenz* discloses the claimed “deleting the ID from the first lock object.” See Office Action, p. 6. However, updating the status identification code SKC does not constitute deleting. *Lenz* does not teach deleting the status identification code SKC. In fact, *Lenz* is completely silent with respect to any deleting step. Therefore, *Lenz* fails to disclose “deleting the ID from the first lock object,” as recited in claim 1.

For at least the reasons given above, *Lenz* fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 1, and thus fails to anticipate claim 1. Independent claims 11, 12, and 23, although different in scope from claim 1, distinguish over *Lenz* for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1. Dependent claims 2-9, 15-22, and 24-31 are also allowable over *Lenz* at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims 1, 12, and 23. Claim 10 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw

the rejection of claims 1-12 and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lenz.

CONCLUSION

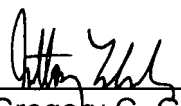
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 27, 2007

By:  Reg. No. 53,232
for Gregory C. Gramenopoulos
Reg. No. 36,532

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet which includes Fig. 1.